GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1502
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
DIABETES DRUGS CAUSING HEART FAILURE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diabetes drugs are likely to cause heart failure as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 26, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the diabetic drugs Rosiglitazone and Pioglitazone are sold under different brand names in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to ban said drugs in the country;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (f): In a recent article published in New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), the results of meta analysis of 42 trial results claimed that Rosiglitazone is associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disorders. However, in the opinion of another scientific journal Lancet, it was reported that to avoid unnecessary panic, a calmer and more considered approach to the safety of Rosiglitazone is needed. The Scientific Advisory Committee of US FDA has examined the issue and clear decision has come out of the committee. Out of 23 members of the committee, 22 recommended for the continued use of the drug. The US FDA takes decisions based on the recommendations of Scientific Advisory Committee. There was no such report on pioglitazone.

Diabetic drugs Rosiglitazone and Pioglitazone are sold under different brand names in the country by various companies.

According to Drugs Controller General, Rosiglitazone is being brought under focused monitoring of adverse drug reactions in the National Pharmacovigilance Programme.